

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1246**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk**

February 22, 2005

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An act to add Sections 8238 and 8239 to the Education Code, relating to preschool programs.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1246, as amended, Wolk. ~~Prekindergarten-content~~ *learning standards.*

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer all state preschool programs and general child care and development programs, with certain requirements.

This bill would require the Superintendent, by January 1, 2007, and in consultation with experts from the field of early childhood education, to develop and adopt prekindergarten-~~content~~ *learning standards* and to develop prekindergarten curriculum-~~frameworks~~ *guides* in ~~four core-content~~ *4 subject* areas, as specified. The bill would authorize the Superintendent to develop and adopt prekindergarten curriculum standards in additional content areas. The bill would require that these-~~content~~ *learning standards* and curriculum-~~frameworks~~ *by guides* be developed and adopted by the Superintendent using existing funding and resources. *This bill would require the Superintendent establish and convene a panel, as specified, every 7 years to review the learning standards. This bill would require the Superintendent to conduct regional hearings prior*

*to adopting learning standards in order to give parents and other members of the public the opportunity to comment on the standards.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 8238 is added to the Education Code, to  
2 read:

3 8238. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
4 following:

5 (1) The achievement gaps that exist among pupils in  
6 elementary school first become evident in kindergarten, and these  
7 gaps can often be traced back to young pupils who began school  
8 unprepared to meet the expectations of our educational system.

9 (2) A high-quality preschool experience is essential to prepare  
10 young children to meet the high expectations of California's  
11 public schools. ~~Moreover, the advantages of preschool hold for~~  
12 ~~all children.~~

13 (3) In addition to ~~mastering academic content~~ *having a*  
14 *foundation for early learning*, young children in high-quality  
15 preschool programs also develop social, emotional, cognitive,  
16 and physical skills that they need in order to grow and learn.  
17 Preschool learning is both purposeful and playful.

18 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that  
19 would require the department to develop ~~preschool~~  
20 *prekindergarten learning* standards that will accomplish all of  
21 the following:

22 (1) Prepare young children for success in school and close the  
23 achievement gap.

24 (2) Define the knowledge and skills that preschool-age  
25 children should acquire in order to establish a foundation for  
26 learning in the early elementary years.

27 (3) Be age-appropriate in helping preschool children develop  
28 the early literacy and early numeracy skills that they will need in  
29 order to be ready for kindergarten and grade 1.

30 SEC. 2. Section 8239 is added to the Education Code, to read:

31 8239. (a) (1) By January 1, 2007, the Superintendent, in  
32 consultation with experts from the field of early childhood  
33 education, shall develop *prekindergarten instructional goals in*

1 *the form of proposed prekindergarten-content learning standards,*  
2 *and shall adopt those prekindergarten-content learning standards*  
3 *pursuant to this section.*

4 ~~(2) The standards shall be fully aligned with the content~~  
5 ~~standards developed pursuant to Section 60605.~~

6 ~~(3) The standards shall cover the four core content areas,~~  
7 ~~including, but not limited to, reading/language arts, mathematics,~~  
8 ~~history/social science, and science, and may cover additional~~  
9 ~~content areas.~~

10 *(2) The learning standards shall prepare children to learn the*  
11 *curriculum upon entering kindergarten. It is the intent of the*  
12 *Legislature that the learning standards do all of the following:*

13 *(A) Assist children in the transition from home to*  
14 *prekindergarten.*

15 *(B) Assist children in the transition from prekindergarten to*  
16 *kindergarten.*

17 *(C) Provide a common focus for both parents and*  
18 *prekindergarten practitioners on the learning and skills children*  
19 *need to obtain in prekindergarten in order to be ready for*  
20 *kindergarten.*

21 *(3) The learning standards shall include, but not be limited to,*  
22 *the following areas:*

23 *(A) Reading/language arts, including, but not limited to, the*  
24 *following:*

25 *(i) Vocabulary development.*

26 *(ii) Alphabetic, word, and print recognition.*

27 *(B) Mathematics, including, but not limited to, the following:*

28 *(i) Number sense.*

29 *(ii) Classification and measurement.*

30 *(C) History/social science, including, but not limited to, the*  
31 *following:*

32 *(i) Citizenship.*

33 *(ii) National symbols.*

34 *(iii) Social and emotional development.*

35 *(D) Science, including, but not limited to, the following:*

36 *(i) Physical science.*

37 *(ii) Life science.*

38 *(iii) Earth science.*

1 (4) *Instruction in each of the areas specified in subparagraphs*  
2 *(A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (3) shall be provided in a*  
3 *purposeful and playful learning environment.*

4 ~~(4) The~~

5 (5) *The standards shall be made available for public review*  
6 *and comment, and the Superintendent shall hold regional*  
7 *hearings for the purpose of giving parents, prekindergarten*  
8 *practitioners, and other members of the public the opportunity to*  
9 *comment on the learning standards before the learning standards*  
10 *are adopted.*

11 (b) *Upon the adoption of the learning standards, the*  
12 *Superintendent shall develop prekindergarten curriculum*  
13 *frameworks guides for the four-core-content subject areas,*  
14 *including reading/language arts, mathematics, history/social*  
15 *science, and science. The Superintendent may develop*  
16 *prekindergarten curriculum frameworks in additional content*  
17 *guides in additional subject areas, upon adoption of standards*  
18 *pursuant to subdivision (a).*

19 ~~(e) The content~~

20 (5) *The learning standards and curriculum frameworks guides*  
21 *described in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be developed and*  
22 *adopted by the Superintendent using existing funding and*  
23 *resources.*

24 (d) ~~The content~~ *learning standards and curriculum frameworks*  
25 *guides developed pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall apply*  
26 *to programs funded pursuant to this article and programs serving*  
27 *three- and four-year-old children pursuant to Article 8*  
28 *(commencing with Section 8240). The learning standards and*  
29 *curriculum guides shall be used to provide instructional goals,*  
30 *but shall not be used to direct the manner in which the learning*  
31 *standards are implemented.*

32 (e) *The Superintendent shall establish and convene a panel*  
33 *every seven years to review the learning standards. The panel*  
34 *shall be composed of, but not limited to, parents, prekindergarten*  
35 *practitioners, and early childhood researchers. The panel shall*  
36 *do all of the following:*

37 (1) *Determine the usefulness of the learning standards to*  
38 *parents and prekindergarten practitioners.*

39 (2) *Review the extent to which the learning standards reflect*  
40 *the most current research on early childhood learning.*

1     *(f) The Superintendent shall conduct regional hearings prior*  
2     *to adopting learning standards pursuant to paragraph (1) of*  
3     *subdivision (a) in order to give parents and other members of the*  
4     *public the opportunity to comment on the standards.*

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